BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

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- **The Consumer Price Index fell 0.8% in April**
- **Manufacturing sales in B.C. increased 1.2% in March**
- **Motor vehicle sales surged 14.3% in March**

Prices

- **Consumer prices in British Columbia fell (-0.8%, *year-over-year*) in April for the first time since October 2009. The province's return to the PST, along with lower prices for gasoline (-3.3%) and food (-0.3%) drove the decline.** Prices for food purchased from stores (+1.6%) were up, with fresh fruit (+11.6%), vegetable (+10.5%), coffee & tea (+4.0%), and meat (+1.0%) prices continuing to rise, while consumers paid notably less for restaurant meals (-4.3%).

  The cost of shelter (-1.1%) continued to decline, a result of lower costs associated with owned accommodation (-2.4%), as rented accommodation (+1.3%) and utility (+1.5%) prices maintained an upward trend.

  Household operations & furnishings (+1.0%), and alcoholic beverages & tobacco (+0.2%) were the only components of the CPI that recorded price increases. Transportation prices fell (-1.2%) for the second consecutive month as gasoline prices dropped 3.3%, and consumers paid 1.4% less for public transit. Prices for clothing & footwear (-0.9%), health & personal care (-2.1%), and recreation, education & reading (-2.2%) all decreased.

  Nationally, falling prices in B.C. (-0.8%) and New Brunswick (-0.2%) kept the national average (+0.4%) low, while Manitoba (+1.8%), PEI (+1.8), and Alberta (+1.3%) recorded the highest inflation rates in the country. Consumer prices in Victoria (-1.3%) fell at a slightly faster rate than in Vancouver (-0.8%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Manufacturing sales in British Columbia increased 1.2% in March (*seasonally adjusted*), nearly recouping the 1.3% decline recorded in February.** Shipments by producers of non-durable goods edged up 0.3%, rising for the first time since November 2012. Producers of paper (+2.6%) and food (+1.9%) products recorded strong sales, but chemical product (-6.1%) shipments fell sharply. Manufacturers of durable goods saw sales rise (+1.9%), with non-metallic minerals surging 14.2%, and electrical equipment & appliances rising 9.2%. The only contraction in sales in the durable goods sector was recorded in machinery manufacturing (-0.7%), while fabricated (+5.8%) and primary (+2.2%) metals, transportation equipment (+3.2%), and wood (+0.4%) and computer & electronic (+2.3%) producers increased their shipments.

  Nationally, manufacturing sales fell (-0.3%), with six provinces recording declines. Shipments by Newfoundland (+30.7%) manufacturers rose sharply, followed by PEI (+7.6%), B.C. (+1.2%) and Quebec (+0.2%). New Brunswick (-9.5%) and Saskatchewan (-7.7%) had the largest declines, while sales were down slightly in Manitoba (-0.8%), Alberta (-0.7%), Nova Scotia (-0.3%), and Ontario (-0.1%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **B.C. wholesale sales inched up 0.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March, rising for the fourth month in a row.** Sales of food, beverages & tobacco, motor vehicles, building materials & supplies, and machinery, equipment & supplies supported the increase, as wholesalers of

Did you know...

In 2012, the typical UFO sighting in Canada lasted approximately 15 minutes.

Source: Ufology Research

personal & household goods and new motor vehicle parts saw sales decline. Nationally, wholesale sales were up (+0.3%), supported by Saskatchewan (+6.6%), Ontario (+1.4%), and B.C. (+0.5%), with all of the remaining provinces recording declines.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of motor vehicle sales in British Columbia surged 11.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March, the largest increase recorded since June 2011 (+12.9%).** Sales of vehicles manufactured in North America (+11.8%) and overseas (+9.4%) supported the increase. Consumer demand for trucks (+17.7%) accounted for most of the spike, with sales of trucks manufactured in North America (+19.3%) and overseas (+11.4%) both rising, while car (+2.2%) sales were bolstered entirely by foreign models (+8.1%), as domestic model sales fell (-1.8%). *Data Source: BC Stats Statistics Canada*

- **The number of traveller entries to Canada via B.C. dipped (-0.1%, *seasonally adjusted*) for the second month in a row in March.** Visitor entries from the U.S. edged up (+0.9%), with increases in both same-day (+1.0%) and overnight (+0.8%) visits. Travel from the rest of the world contracted (-3.2%), with visits down from Asia (-4.2%), Europe (-1.8%), and other parts of the world (-3.0%). The number of Canadian residents returning from abroad fell (-5.6%), as re-entries from the U.S. (-6.1%) dropped sharply. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Housing starts in British Columbia are forecast to drop 5% in 2013, to 26,100, according to the British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA).** This follows a 4% rise recorded in 2012, when single starts dipped 6%, and multiple starts increased 9.1%. The forecast estimates single starts will edge up 0.8% and multiple starts will drop 7.5% in 2013, but even out in 2014 with single (+3.6%) and multiple (+4%) starts both rising for a total of 27,100 housing starts. *Source: BCREA*

- **The British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) forecasts a 1.9% rise in the number of MLS® residential home sales in 2013, at 68,900 units, with a 6.5% spike projected in 2014.** The increase follows an 11.8% decline recorded in 2012, when the average MLS® price fell to $514,836 (-8.3%), and total sales volume to $34.8 billion (-19.1%). The average MLS® price is expected to edge up slightly (+0.2%) in 2013, then at a higher rate (+1.7%) in 2014, with total sales volume rising 2.1% and 8.3%, respectively. *Source: BCREA*

- **The Non-residential Building Construction Price Index in Vancouver edged up 1.3% (*Index 2002=100*) in the first quarter of 2013, compared to the same quarter of the previous year.** The increase in Vancouver was slightly above the national average (+1.1%). Prices were higher in all of the surveyed census subdivisions, led by Halifax (+1.5%), Calgary (+1.4%), and Edmonton (+1.4%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The Apartment Building Construction Price Index rose 1.3% in Vancouver (*index 2002=100*) in the first quarter of 2013 over the same period in 2012.** Nationally, prices were up 1.0%, led by Calgary (+1.6%), Edmonton (+1.5%), and Halifax (+1.3%). Apartment construction prices in Montreal (+0.9%), Toronto (+0.9%), and Ottawa-Gatineau (+0.5%) increased at rates below the national average. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Extraterrestrial Activity

- **The number of unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings reported in Canada more than doubled (+100.9%) in 2012.** There were 1,981 UFO sightings nationally, compared to 986 in 2011, setting a new all-time high record, and completely trouncing the record set in 2008 (1,004). This translated to roughly five sightings each day. Sightings in Ontario accounted for 41% (822) of UFO reports, though residents of British Columbia (399) and Alberta (323) also reported many sightings of strange flying objects. *Source: Ufology Research*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,639.9	0.8
Canada	35,056.1	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar 2013	3,360	1.2
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2013	3,001	12.9
Retail Sales - Feb 2013	5,115	-0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Apr 2013)		
BC	-0.8	0.6
Vancouver	-0.8	0.8
Victoria	-1.3	0.4
Canada	0.4	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2013	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	9.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,471.0	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,312.1	0.4
Unemployed - BC	158.8	-8.3
		Mar 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.4	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 15/2013	May 16/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.20
- 5 year	5.14	5.44
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 15/2013	May 16/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0173	1.0102
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9831	0.9875
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2013	
BC	877.05	3.9
Canada	885.20	3.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- Consumer Price Index, April 2013

To Release this week

- No periodical releases

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